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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 SANTIAGO 000931

SIPDIS  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PASS TO AMEMBASSY GRENADA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PASS TO AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PASS TO AMCONSUL RECIFE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/12/10  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [CI](#)  
SUBJECT: Chile's Presidential Election: Dec. 13 Vote Pits Sputtering  
Frei against Rising Enriquez-Ominami for Spot in Runoff

REF: SANTIAGO 897 SANTIAGO 919

CLASSIFIED BY: Laurie Weitzenkorn, A/DCM, State, US Embassy Santiago  
REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: Opposition candidate Sebastian Pinera is almost certain to emerge from the December 13 presidential election in first place  
December 13: The First Round of a Historic Election -----  
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[1](#)2. (SBU) On December 13, Chilean voters will go to the polls in the first phase of a historic election that could be a major step towards bridging

[1](#)3. (SBU) Pinera is practically guaranteed a spot in the second round election and has a good chance of ultimately winning the presidency. (C)

The Big Question: Who Will Pinera Face in the Second Round?

[1](#)4. (SBU) Given Pinera's commanding lead in polls, the real question to be answered in the first round of voting is whom Sebastian Pinera will

Charges in Death of Eduardo Frei Montalva Come Just Six Days Before Election  
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[1](#)5. (SBU) Charges against six people allegedly involved in the murder of President Eduardo Frei Montalva, the father of presidential candidate  
Frei Campaign Sputters Along  
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[1](#)6. (C) The Frei camp has run a terrible campaign and its mistakes have continued into the final weeks before the first round vote. Enriquez-Ominami

[1](#)7. (SBU) Perpetual staff turnover at the Frei command continues to make headlines and give the impression of a poorly managed effort. In the

[1](#)8. (C) Frei advisor and former Interior Minister Belisario Velasco evinced confidence that Frei would prevail in the December 13 first round,

Enriquez-Ominami Team Says They're on the Rise

[1](#)9. (C) The Enriquez-Ominami team asserts that their candidate is doing better than the CEP poll indicates, and that the 36-year-old parliamentarian

[1](#)10. (C) Enriquez-Ominami chief advisor Max Marambio backs up Sajuria's analysis, and told Poloff December 4 that there has been a real "effective

Pinera Team: Focused on the Second Round  
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[1](#)11. (C) With their presence on a second-round ballot all but assured, the Pinera campaign team is focusing its resources on winning the January 15 runoff

What to Watch for on December 13  
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[1](#)12. (C) Assuming that the most likely scenario prevails and Frei and Pinera emerge as the victors of the first round, their relative performance

Comment  
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[1](#)13. (C) Pinera has run an effective, error-free campaign with a relatively united conservative coalition, and his team is very confident on his chances of winning  
SIMONS